

North Carolina Child Nutrition Weekly Update



Week of January 28-February 1, 2013

Issue No. 2013.1-3

In this issue:

- USDA Policy Memo Revision – SP 10-2012 1 Attachment
- Winter Policy Update Information 1 Attachment
- Award for Excellence 2012-13 – Update and State Level Judging Criteria 1 Attachment
- CONGRATULATIONS! Amy Harkey - FAME Spirit Award 1 Attachment
- CONGRATULATIONS! Lyn Holt – Subway School Health Champion of the Year!
- Reduced Price Breakfast Funding – UPDATE 1 Attachment
- ****REMINDER**** Meal Pattern Flexibility – Meat/Meat Alternate and Grain Maximums (SP 11-2013) 1 Attachment
- Finance Forum – Child Nutrition Program Update 1 Attachment
- Financial Form Update (Semi-Annual FC1-A)
- Verification Summary Report – Due Date Approaching
- 2013 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference 1 Attachment
- Grant Opportunity – School Gardens
- ****REMINDER**** On-Site Reviews 1 Attachment
- Team Up for Healthy Learning – February 9 1 Attachment
- Celebrate Sweet Potato Month in February 3 Attachments
- Weekly Q&A – Meat/Meat Alternate Flexibility and Grain Maximums
- Vacancy Announcement – Cabarrus County Child Nutrition Supervisor 1 Attachment
- Mark Your Calendar

In accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender (male or female), age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (Voice). Individuals who are hearing impaired or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA Policy Memo Revision – SP 10-2012

USDA Policy Memo SP 10-2012 entitled Final Rule: Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs has been revised. The current revision includes new Questions/Answers that highlight the meal pattern flexibilities, some Questions/Answers based on SFA feedback, and minor editorial changes to clarify Questions/Answers already published. If you have questions, please contact your Regional Child Nutrition Consultants.

The revised SP 10-2012 is attached and the revised Q&As are available for download on the School Meal Nutrition Standards page of the Child Nutrition Website at: <http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/front-page/news-events/school-meal-nutrition-standards> .

(1) Attachments: **sp-10-2012.pdf**

Winter Policy Update Information

It's time for Winter Policy Updates! The Updates have been scheduled for each region seen below. You should soon receive invitation letters from your Regional Consultants with information on the location and time for their Policy Update. Also, a general agenda is attached for your convenience. Should you have any questions please contact your Regional Consultant.

Region 1 – Feb 12th

Region 2 – Feb 8th

Region 3 – Feb 8th

Region 4 - Feb 8th

Region 5 – Feb 7th

Region 6 – Feb 21st

Region 7 – Feb 8th

Region 8 – Feb 22nd

(1) Attachment: **agenda-policy upd-wint2013.pdf**

Awards for Excellence 2012-13 – Update and State Level Judging Criteria

We hope you and your staffs are working diligently on your 2012-13 Awards for Excellence books. As a reminder, **please send your Awards for Excellence completed summary sheets to Janice Ezzell no later than Friday, April 5, 2013. If you would like to receive the plaques or certificates prior to April 30, please send the documentation at least 4 weeks prior to the presentation date.** Please send it electronically (if possible), to Janice.ezzell@dpi.nc.gov , or by fax to (866) 638-5014 or by mail to 1116 Liliflora Lane, Leland, NC 28451. Also, please print or type clearly the name of the school and SFA on the forms.

State level judging of the Awards for Excellence books will once again be conducted at the SNA-NC State Conference in June 2013. The state level judging criteria form is attached. **Please submit the single best award entry from your school system for this competition to Janice Ezzell no later than Friday, May 24.** You may send the notebook by UPS, Federal Express or USPS (be sure the delivery you choose can be tracked). Also, please indicate that it can be delivered without a required signature. First, second

and third place award school winners will be recognized at one of the general sessions during the SNA-NC June conference. The notebooks will be placed on display at the conference and can be picked up in the display room or at the registration table on Thursday, June 20 after 1:30 pm.

Thank you for your support of the Awards for Excellence program. We look forward to receiving many entries this year and recognizing the great work you are doing in your Child Nutrition Programs! If you have questions, please call Janice Ezzell at 910-833-6750 or e-mail her at Janice.ezzell@dpi.nc.gov.

(1) Attachment: afe judging criteria.doc

CONGRATULATIONS! Amy Harkey, FAME Spirit Award



Congratulations to Amy Harkey, MS, RD, LDN, SNS, Assistant Director, Child Nutrition, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. Amy earned the coveted FAME (Foodservice Achievement and Management Excellence) Silver Spirit Award. The award was presented to Amy during the recent Child Nutrition Industry Conference in San Antonio, TX.

The Spirit Award recognizes a Child Nutrition Professional who shows commitment to the people and programs and Child Nutrition and distinguishes herself through innovative programs, marketing, training, customer service and/or staff motivation. The following words were said of Amy during the awards ceremony:

Clearly, Amy exudes "**SPIRIT.**"

S.... She is Smart and Savvy; She is a Super-Hero in the School Nutrition Programs;

P.... She is Passionate about serving students; she is the consummate Professional and takes Pride in all she does;

I..... She is an Inspiring leader and people want to follow her; she is Ingenious in her approach to school meals;

R.... She is Responsible and Reliable she does what she says she will do when she says she will do it; you can count on her;

I..... She is Innovative and uses her innovation to raise the standards for everyone in Child Nutrition

T.... She is a Team Player; her Talent is amazing; her Temperament is assuring; her attitude is Terrific.

Please join us in congratulating Amy on this outstanding accomplishment. The attached press release provides more information about Amy, her career and accomplishments.

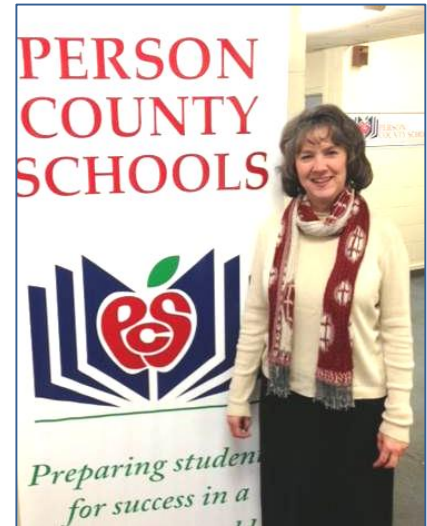
(1) Attachment: amy harkey-fame.pdf

CONGRATULATIONS! Lyn Holt – Subway School Health Champion of the Year!

Lyn Holt, Child Nutrition Director with Person County Schools was named the 2012 Subway School Health Champion of the Year!

This award is part of a collaborative project with Subway, Tarheel Sports Properties, the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction.

Lyn was selected from 24 Subway School Health Champions of the Month winners representing each of the 8 components of a Coordinated School Health Program. She won \$5,000 to be used in her school system for a health related project and Subway coupons for students to be used after 3:30 pm.



Winners were recognized on mid-court at half time of the December 1st UNC basketball game and presented a plaque and check by Paula Hildebrand, Burt Jenkins and the famous Jared of Subway.

Lyn is among our state's most distinguished Child Nutrition Administrators. She is genuinely committed to serving students, serving Person County Schools and ensuring students in the district have the fuel they need to be healthy and ready-to-learn every day. Lyn is always willing to adopt new student-focused initiatives and she is a leader in providing staff development and support for her Child Nutrition Team. She always has a positive outlook and a "can do" attitude. Lyn is a visionary leader in Child Nutrition who inspires others to make school nutrition the best "education program" possible.

Congratulations Lyn on this outstanding achievement!

Reduced Price Breakfast Funding - UPDATE

The state agency is pleased to announce that all modifications required to the Child Nutrition Technology System to provide reimbursement for the reduced price breakfast served have been completed and tested. The modifications should be placed into production by Friday, January 25, 2013 and at that time, detailed instructions on entering revised claims will be provided.

The SY 2012-2013 Reduced Price Breakfast Allocation is being provided with this update. The total appropriation of \$2,017,761.00 will allow a funding percentage of 41.1469%. The allocation was based on the number of approved reduced students reported by the SFA on the 2011-12 Verification Summary report.

If you have questions, please contact Janet Johnson at janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-4043.

(1) Attachment: 2012-13 alloc-red-priced meals.xls

****REMINDER** Meal Pattern Flexibility – Meat/Meat Alternate and Grain Maximums (SP 11-2013 Revised)**

In December 2012 USDA issued revised guidance regarding Flexibility in the Meat/meat Alternate and Grain Maximums requirements for the 12-13 school year. In response to feedback from SFA's, State Agencies, and other interested parties, USDA Food and Nutrition Service is offering a more adaptable approach to menu planning for the meat/meat alternate and grain components.

To summarize the main points of the guidance dated 12/20/12:

- There is no change in the requirement for or the method of measuring required DAILY MINIMUM quantities for grains or for meat/meat alternates;
- Menus will be considered compliant with component requirements for grains and meat/meat alternates if the menu is compliant with both DAILY and WEEKLY MINIMUMS regardless of whether they have exceed previously established maximums;
- This flexibility and elimination of the maximums for grains and meat/meat alternates is effective for the 12-13 school year until further guidance is issued;
- This same flexibility will be used in assessing compliance with grains and meat/meat alternate components during Validation Reviews completed during this 12-13 school year;
- USDA does not require states to reconsider or recertify and SFA's already Certified as eligible to receive the 6 cents reimbursement based on previous guidance;
- As SFA's who have not yet been Certified begin to enter documents and data into the Certification Worksheet, it may be that the previously required maximums are exceeded, and the Worksheet will show that by a red block in that column. This is not a problem. SFA's should go ahead and submit the Worksheet. State Agency reviewers are aware of the relaxation of the requirement and will not require corrective action for that issue;
- SFA's that are already Certified using the grain and meat/meat alternate maximums do have the option to adjust menus to add more grains and/or meat/meat alternates without resubmitting menus for Certification. HOWEVER, keep in mind that calorie ranges are still in effect, as well as saturated fat requirements, and;
- This flexibility does not affect Breakfast meal pattern for the current year, as there are no maximums set in the current breakfast meal pattern. IF a SFA has implemented the new breakfast meal pattern early, the flexibility will be applied to the grains component. As there is no required meat/meat alternate component in the new breakfast meal pattern, the flexibility is not relevant.

Please be sure to attend the upcoming Policy Updates offered. This item will be part of the agenda and any questions regarding this topic can be addressed at that time.

(1) Attachment: [sp-11-2013.pdf](#)

Finance Forum – Child Nutrition Program Update

Child Nutrition Services was invited to attend the January 2013 Finance Forum that was held in Raleigh on Friday, January 18, 2013. A brief summary of the topics discussed, include the following:

- New Meal Pattern
- 6 Cents Rule
- Meal Price Equity
- Public Notification of Performance
- Competitive Foods
- Professional Standards for School Nutrition Personnel
- State Revenue Match
- Reduced Price Breakfast

The handout provided to the attendees is included with this update. If you have questions regarding the information shared, please contact Janet Johnson at janet.williamsjohnson@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-4043.

(1) Attachment: [cn forum update.doc](#)

Financial Form Update (Semi-Annual FC1-A)

The Child Nutrition Technology System is currently being modified to reflect the SY 2012-13 Financial Form (FC1-A) previously provided to the SFAs. The due date for the December 2012 report is March 1, 2013. If the modifications are not completed by this date, the state agency will notify the SFAs with the new submission date. Once the modifications are completed, detailed instructions will be provided to complete and submit the report online.

*****REMINDER** Verification Summary Report – Due Date Approaching***

The due date to complete the online Verification Summary report is **March 1, 2013**. The Child Nutrition Technology System is open for submission of the report at this time. Please keep in mind that the report may not be finalized until after February 15, 2013 unless all households responded to the verification process completed on November 15, 2012.

If you have questions about submitting your Verification Summary Report, please contact Karla Wheeler at karla.wheeler@dpi.nc.gov or 919-807-3518.

2013 NC Child Hunger Leaders Conference

On behalf of the No Kid Hungry, NCDPI Child Nutrition Services is pleased to invite Child Nutrition personnel to attend the Child Hunger Leaders Conference on February 20, 2013 in Chapel Hill. This conference is open to leaders and individuals and will be an opportunity to collaborate on ways to feed more children and learn to access federal funding to help fulfill the nutritional needs of hungry children in communities across the state.

If you would like to attend please review the attached invitation for additional details and registration information. For questions please contact Tamara Baker, Program Manager, No Kid Hungry NC, at

tbaker@strength.org, or by phone at 919.933.7650.

(1) Attachment: child hunger leaders conf.pdf

Grant Opportunity – School Gardens

If your School Food Authority is interested in school gardens, this new grant opportunity may be of interest to you. The NC Farm Bureau Ag in the Classroom has launched a new grant program for schools entitled "Going Local." One of the focus areas is school gardens. Grants are available up to \$500. The application and contact information for Michelle Reedy, Ag in the Classroom Director, is available at:



http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/pdf/AGintheClassroom_local.pdf.

As you consider this opportunity, please also consider the "Best Practices" for School and Community Gardens that was developed for us in NC's public schools. Your local Agricultural Education Teacher can be a tremendous resource for anyone who wishes to successfully and safely manage a school garden.

****REMINDER** On-Site Reviews**

It's that time again! February 1, 2013 is the deadline for LEAs to complete your On-Site Reviews. Every school year each School Food Authority must perform on-site reviews of the meal counting and claiming system employed by each school/site under its jurisdiction. Keep in mind that SFAs may choose to use their own On-Site School Review form; however, at a minimum the form must include all of the information that is on the State Agency prototype form and any non-prototype form must be approved by your Regional Program Consultant.

The prototype On-Site review form is attached for your convenience. It is important to remember that traditional public schools must use the On-Site School Review Form for LEAs and Charters, Non-public/private schools and RCCIs must use the Self-Assessment form. If you have questions please contact your Regional Consultant.

(1) Attachment: on-site review-lea.doc

Team Up for Healthy Learning – February 9

The North Carolina Action for Healthy Kids (NCAFK) and the North Carolina Parent Teacher Association (NCPTA) are teaming up over the coming months to present a new series of leadership workshops highlighting the benefits of school wellness efforts and coordinated school health programs. The next "Team Up for Healthy Learning" event is scheduled for **February 9** (9 am-3 pm) at the McKimmon Center in Raleigh.

This event will focus on leadership, health and effective ways to work together on school wellness. Learn about how your school can incorporate physical activity into your school day. Find out how to conduct

nutrition taste testing. Hear about opportunities for your school to earn grant funding to support wellness programming. Identify healthy fundraising strategies. Discover what's happening in school wellness initiatives and hear about some of the coordinated health programs that schools in North Carolina are using and the benefits they've reaped from these programs.

These interactive learning events present excellent opportunities for parent leaders, PTA members, teachers, school staff, school administrators, school nurses, Child Nutrition professionals, and community leaders to learn more about how they can support school wellness policies, activities, and events in their local school communities. Bring a friend or another member of your school community, and join us to learn about how you can make a difference this year!

To find out more information or to register for Team Up for Healthy Learning review the attached announcement and/or visit:

<http://ncpta.org/index.php/events/conferences/team-up-for-healthy-learning-at-the-ncpta-emerging-leaders-conference/> .

(1) Attachment: teamup 4 health.pdf

Celebrate Sweet Potato Month in February

North Carolina is #1 in sweet potato production and now schools have a chance to be best in class in sweet potato promotion! February is Sweet Potato Month, and the N.C. Sweet Potato Commission is sponsoring a promotion contest for N.C. schools to celebrate.

Guidelines:

- Submit pictures or portfolios of promotional and educational efforts about sweet potatoes that occurred in your school/cafeteria in February.
- All items are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2013.
- Send items to Heather Barnes, NCDA&CS, 1020 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1020 or heather.barnes@ncagr.gov



Resources are available on the N.C. Sweet Potato website, www.ncsweetpotatoes.com. Lesson plans, posters and other educational materials are available by emailing ncsweetsue@aol.com. A list of suggested activities is available at www.ncfarmtoschool.com

Prizes:

Winners will be recognized by the N.C. Sweet Potato Commission and N.C. Farm to School.

- 1st place \$250
- 2nd place \$150
- 3rd place \$100

For more information about the sweet potato promotion or Farm to School, see the attached flyer, activities list and newsletter and/or contact Heather Barnes at heather.barnes@ncagr.gov or 919-707-3127.

(3) Attachments: **nc farm2sch nwsltr.pdf**
 sweet potato activities.pdf
 sweet potato flyer.pdf

Weekly Q&A – Meat/Meat Alternate Flexibility and Grain Maximums

QUESTION

It is my understanding that our planned menus no longer have to stay within the minimum and maximum number of ounce equivalents for meat/meat alternate and grains; is this correct?

ANSWER

USDA issued new guidance on this issue on December 20, 2012 in Policy Memo SP 11-2013: *FNS Guidance to School Food Authorities: Flexibility in the Meat/Meat Alternate and Grain Maximums for School Year 2012-13*. Due to reported challenges from school menu planners, FNS (Food and Nutrition Service) is offering additional flexibility in menu planning for School Year (SY) 2012-13. State Agencies should consider any SFA (School Food Authority) compliant with the component requirements for grains and meat/meat alternates if the menu complies with the daily and weekly minimums for these two components, regardless of whether they have exceeded the maximums for the same components.

Additionally, State Agencies will take this flexible approach in assessing compliance with the grains and meat/meat alternates weekly ranges when conducting validation reviews on the 25 percent of certified SFA's during the remainder of this school year. There will be no reconsideration or recertification of SFA's already certified as eligible to receive the 6 cent reimbursement based on previous guidance. FNS will continue to monitor implementation data and feedback from SFA's and State agencies to determine if this approach is appropriate and whether other adjustments beyond the current School Year prove necessary. (NOTE: There has been no change to the minimum and maximum calorie ranges for each grade group; these are still required when planning menus.)

Vacancy Announcement – Cabarrus County Child Nutrition Supervisor

Cabarrus County School Child Nutrition is accepting applications for the position of Child Nutrition Foods and Nutrition Supervisor. Please review the attached vacancy announcement for details on the position application procedures.

If you have questions about the position please contact Frank Fiorella, Child Nutrition Director, at frank.fiorella@cabarrus.k12.nc.us .

(1) Attachment: **[cabarrus-cnsupvr.doc](#)**

Mark Your Calendar

February 2013.....	<i>Sweet Potato Month</i>
February 1	On-site Reviews Due (LEAs)
**February 10 (Sunday)	Deadline for submitting January Claim for Reimbursement
February 7	Region 5 Policy Update
February 8	Region 2 Policy Update
February 8	Region 3 Policy Update
February 8	Region 4 Policy Update
February 8	Region 7 Policy Update
February 12.....	Region 1 Policy Update
February 15 (Friday)	Deadline for January Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement
February 21.....	Region 6 Policy Update
February 22.....	Region 8 Policy Update
March 2013.....	<i>National Nutrition Month</i>
March 1	Deadline for submitting Verification Summary Report
March 1	Due Date for Financial Form (Semi-Annual FC1-A)
March 4-8	<i>School Breakfast Week</i>
March 3-6	Legislative Action Conference (SNA) – Washington, DC
**March 10 (Sunday)	Deadline for submitting February Claim for Reimbursement
March 15 (Friday)	Deadline for February Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Claim for Reimbursement

**** REMEMBER** – Anytime the 10th falls on a weekend the actual due date for the claim for reimbursement is the next business day which is usually Monday. In the event that the following Monday is a holiday then the due date moves to the next business day. Also remember, the CN Technology system is programmed to flag any claim for reimbursement that is submitted after the 10th with the “10 day” error message (Error Code 1401). The NCDPI Child Nutrition section and the Claims section are fully aware of this and the Claims department will automatically override that error message for any claims submitted in this time period. It is not necessary to contact the Child Nutrition office when you receive the error message in this situation. However, if a claim reimbursement is submitted after the 10th for any other reason, you must contact us. **NOTE:** This also applies to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for which the claim for reimbursement is due on the 15th of each month.